

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wright House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

123 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lester C. Leonard

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

123 South Commerce St.

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: CWC 67Folio #: 158

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-243

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wright House is located on the east side of South Commerce Street immediately to the south of the Centreville Public Library and directly across from Godwin Lane.

This late 19th century frame house is one of the largest and most elaborate Victorian buildings in the county. The asymmetrical plan and multifaceted facades virtually defy description. Reference should be made to the accompanying photographs.

The house rests on a high brick foundation and a full cellar. The first floor is covered with plain horizontal weatherboard siding, the second story with fishscale shingle siding. The eaves are finished with a heavy bracketed cornice; the roof is slate. The majority of windows on the 1st and 2nd floors are 1/1; small 6/1 windows are utilized on the third story dormers and cross gables. The windows on the northwest corner on the first floor have elaborate stained glass sash. A semi-circular transom over the front door is similarly treated.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The dominant features of the building are a circular two-story turret on the southwest corner, the curved wall surface of the northwest corner, a 2 1/2 story semi-octagonal bay on the north wall, and projecting cross gables on the front and rear facades.

Particular features of note include the stained glass windows on the northwest portion of the house, leaded glass windows on the southwest turret and the south wall of the house, and the large brick chimneys on the north and south walls. The upper gable of the projecting west cross-gable as well as the large dormer windows are embellished with decorative strapwork and vergeboards topped by carved finials.

The first floor interior plan is asymmetrical in design. The front door opens into a large stairhall that forms the northwest portion of the house. The north and west walls consist of a single semi-circular partition. A large closed-string stair rises against the east and north walls. The newel at the base of the stairs is massive, with paneled surfaces and a carved cap. A fitting survives in the center of the cap for a gas newel lamp similar to the surviving lamps at the Collins House and the Harper House, immediately to the south. The ballusters are turned in a swirl pattern;

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

the carriage is heavily molded.

A door in the rear of the stair hall opens into a short hall that leads back to the rear of the house. A transom above this door is decorated with a decorative wood screen.

Double sliding doors in the south wall of the stair hall open into the front parlor. A shallow fireplace lined with yellow tile and framed with a columned mantel piece is centered on the south wall of this room. A French door to the left of the fireplace opens into the southwest turret room. A double door in the rear of the parlor opens into a second, rear parlor.

A small fireplace is centered on a semi-octagonal bay at the south end of the rear parlor. This fireplace is lined with brown tile and fitted with a cast iron stove grate. An ornate mantel with a mirrored over-mantel frames the opening.

To the east of the front stair hall is a large dining room and a smaller breakfast room. The north end of the dining room is semi-octagonal, with a huge decorative brick fireplace in the center flanked by 1/1 windows. This mantel is typical of the late 19th and early 20th century, utilizing decorative terra cotta and brick with egg-and-dart and Wall-of-Troy moldings.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

Tapered columns with paneled bases and Ionic capitals frame the opening into the breakfast room.

At the rear of the house is the kitchen and narrow service stairs to the second floor and the cellar.

On the second floor, the stair hall is essentially a balcony, with the stair ballustrade framing the opening. A single door in the east wall opens into a short hall leading to the rear. A large double door in the south wall opens into a large room directly above the first floor front parlor. The south wall of this room is left almost entirely open, connecting with the semi-circular turret on the southwest corner of the house. The entire south wall and the turret are one continuous bank of leaded glass windows, with a circular paneled window seat built in below the turret windows.

An arched doorway in the east wall of the southeast chamber opens into a smaller chamber to the rear. A shallow fireplace is centered on the semi-octagonal south wall of this room. The fireplace is lined with brown tile and is framed with a columned mantel with columned and mirrored overmantel.

Across the hall, to the north, is a second small chamber with a small fireplace on the semi-octagonal north wall. This fireplace is faced with tile and lined

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

with decorative metal firebacks. The mantel has projecting paneled pilasters, a molded shelf, and a mirrored overmantel with flanking paired columns.

To the rear of the house are several small store-rooms, a bathroom, a small bedroom, and the service stair.

On the third floor there are four sleeping chambers, a bathroom and a service room arranged around a relatively small central stair hall. The trim and detailing is relatively simple on this floor.

The use of wire nails throughout the house indicates it was constructed after circa 1890.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wright House was constructed circa 1893-94 by Walter and Sarah Wright on a lot purchased from William McKenney. The property remained in the Wright family until 1959, when Anna Wright Faulkner sold it to Lawrence Callahan. This house is probably the largest and is certainly among the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the county. It remains virtually unchanged and has recently been carefully repainted and repaired.

This house is somewhat unusual for the Eastern Shore in the degree of complexity of the basic house form. Unlike the Collins House (QA-257) and the Harper House (QA-399), two large Victorian houses immediately to the south, the Wright House employs a wide variety of Victorian elements, including curved walls, a semi-circular turret, cross wings, and curved, leaded glass casement windows. While the interior plan is not a radical departure from the traditional center passage plan it clearly is

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

derived from the more complex plans generally associated with high-style Victorian architecture. The interior finish reflects a similar acceptance of national trends, ranging from the grand oak staircase in the front stair hall to the elaborate molded brick fireplace, highly decorative mantels, and extensive use of stained and leaded glass windows.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-243

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

9/16/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIX; Recorded October 10, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

WATER

STREET

BANJO LANE

QA-243 Wright House
123 South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Centreville Tax Assessment Map

STREET

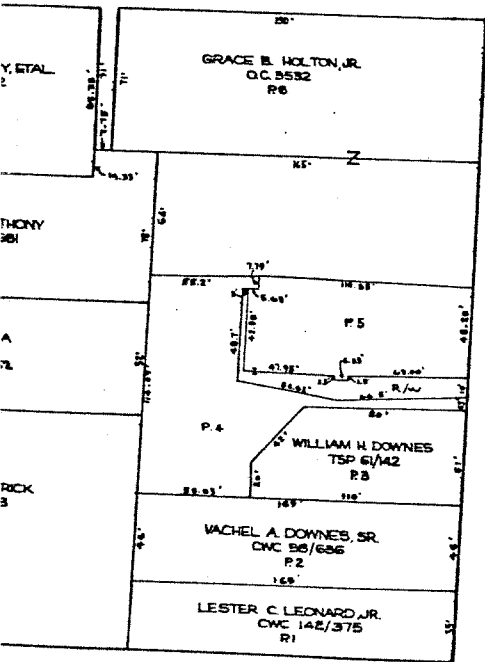
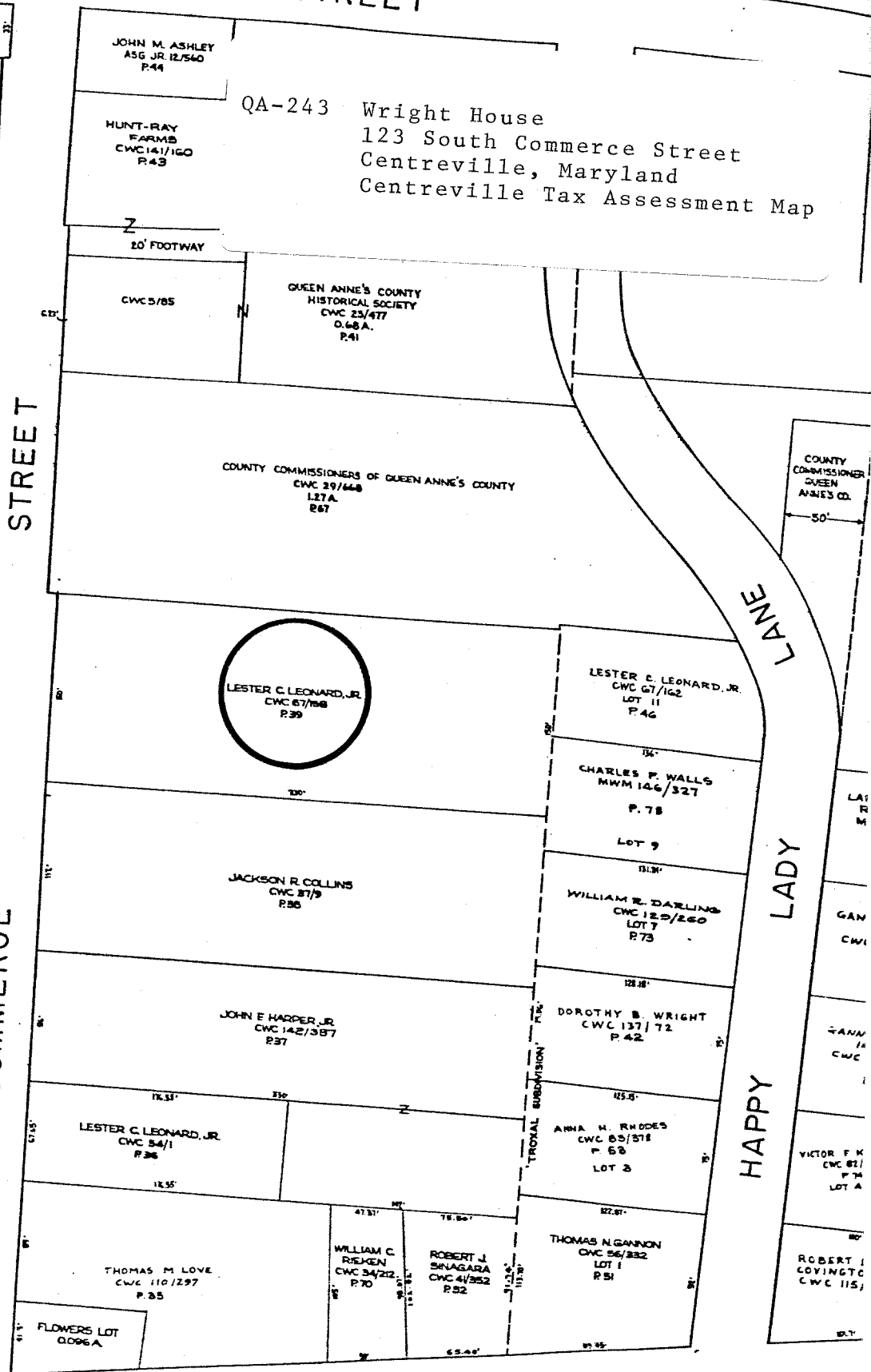
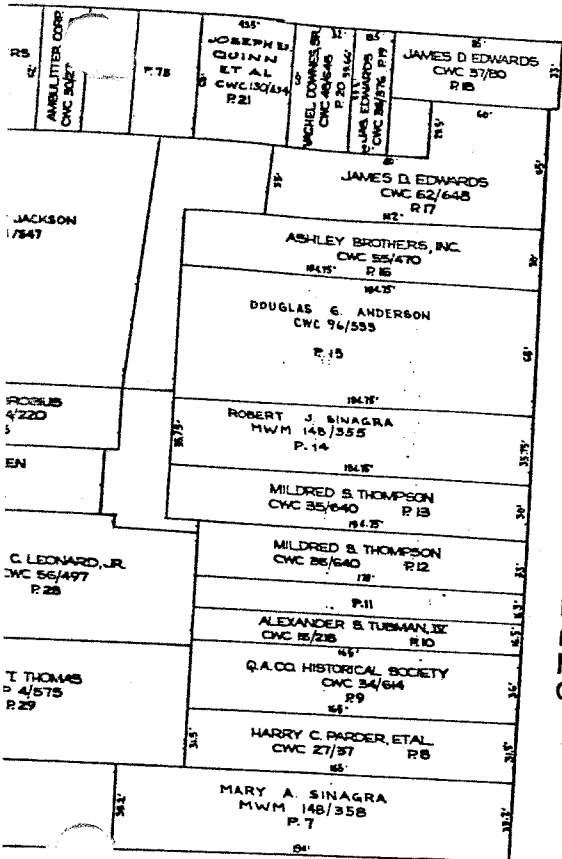
GODWIN'S LANE

COMMERCE

CH LANE

LADY LANE

KIDWELL



COUNTY COMMISSIONER QUEEN ANNE'S CO.

LADY LANE

GANNON

GANNON

VICTOR F. K.

ROBERT I. COVINGTON



QA-243

Wright House
South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Front facade from West



QA-243

Wright House

South Commerce Street

Centreville, Maryland

Orlando Ridout V 1981

View from East